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Attachment to Z-17260/84

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NPIC/IEG (2/84)  
15 FEBRUARY 1984

PROBABLE TESTING OF GAS TURBINE-POWERED MEDIUM TANKS  
MOSKVA AIRCRAFT ENGINE RESEARCH CENTER  
MYACHKOVO TSIAM, USSR (SWN)

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: IMAGERY OF MOSKVA AIRCRAFT ENGINE RESEARCH CENTER MYACHKOVO TSIAM DURING 1983 INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PROBABLY TESTING MEDIUM TANKS POWERED BY GAS TURBINE POWER PLANTS. (SWN)

2. REMARKS: [REDACTED] A CANVAS-COVERED MEDIUM TANK WAS IN FRONT OF THE LARGE, OUTDOOR WIND GENERATOR IN THE WEST-CENTRAL PORTION OF TSIAM. [REDACTED] A SECOND MEDIUM TANK WAS ADJACENT TO THE OUTDOOR FACILITY. THE TANKS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] APPEARED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH TWO POSSIBLE REAR FENDER-MOUNTED FUEL TANKS, A FEATURE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ONLY ON THE SOVIET M-1983/1 MEDIUM TANK. THE TWO MEDIUM TANKS WERE LAST OBSERVED AT THIS FACILITY [REDACTED] AND HAD BEEN REMOVED [REDACTED] PRIOR TO 1983, NO SOVIET GROUND FORCES VEHICLE HAD EVER BEEN IDENTIFIED AT TSIAM. (SWN)

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THE OUTDOOR WIND GENERATOR (ALSO REPORTED AS THE AIR EJECTOR TEST FACILITY) WAS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE LATE 1960s TO FACILITATE THE TESTING OF VARIOUS GAS TURBINE ENGINES (TURBOFAN, TURBOJET, TURBOSHAFT, AND TURBOPROP). THE FACILITY PERMITS TESTING OF THESE ENGINES UNDER BOTH NORMAL AND ADVERSE OPERATING CONDITIONS. PLACING A TEST ARTICLE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE WIND GENERATOR ALLOWS INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF INDUCTED AIRFLOW TO THE ENGINE AND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON SUCH ITEMS AS FLOW RATES, CROSSWIND EFFECTS, AND COMPRESSOR STALLS. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL IN BOTH ENGINE DEVELOPMENT AND INLET DESIGN. THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIUM TANKS WITH THIS FACILITY STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH A GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT, AS IS THE US M1 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK, AND NOT A DIESEL ENGINE, WHICH IS THE STANDARD POWER PLANT OF MOST SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES. (SWN)

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3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 55-33-52N 037-56-54E (S)

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